

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. COOK,
SR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Charles C. Cook, Sr., formerly Superintendent of Congressional Publishing Division at the U.S. Government Publishing Office, on the occasion of his death on Friday, September 28.

Charlie, as he was known to his colleagues, graduated in 1960 from Catonsville High School in Catonsville, Maryland, and went to work at Key Press in Arbutus for a salary of \$1.50 per hour. It was at Key Press that Charlie earned his Printing Apprentice Degree. He then moved to Modern Linotype, and from there to the U.S. Government Printing Office, as the GPO was formerly known, in 1969, where he spent the rest of his career.

At the GPO, Charlie rose to the position of Superintendent of the GPO's Congressional Publishing Division, which is responsible for ensuring the production and delivery of all of the printing and digital work ordered by Congress, including the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, bills, reports, hearings, and all of the other documents required by Congress in carrying out its legislative duties.

During his tenure, Charlie helped lead the introduction of digital publishing of the congressional documents by the GPO, which has reduced the cost and greatly expanded public access to this critically important information. He was also involved with devising improved security measures for the delivery of congressional materials following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Charlie drew strong praise from Congress for his work, which included managing the production of materials for the 1997 and 2001 Presidential inaugurations as well as materials associated with the impeachment of President Clinton. Indeed, Charlie's professionalism stood out across the legislative branch, and as Superintendent of Congressional Publishing he was a key participant in the day to day operations that supported Congress.

Charlie was well-known to his colleagues at the GPO, and especially to the many for whom he acted as mentor and advisor, as a manager with a deep understanding of the GPO's work and a model of dedication to GPO's historic mission. He was generous with his time and knowledge, unfailingly kind, and perennially good humored. In the final stage of his career, Charlie was tapped to become Director of New Business Development at the GPO, a senior executive position from which he retired.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the work and career of Charlie Cook to my colleagues, and extend the sympathy of this House to his wife, Norene, and his children and grandchildren.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON
SOBER LIVING HOME PROBLEMS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again regarding the hearing held by the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on September 28, 2018 on the issue of sober living homes. At that hearing, I had the privilege of testifying at that hearing in support of my bill, H.R. 5724, to restore local oversight over sober living homes. As part of my testimony, I submitted to the Subcommittee letters from many of my constituents about problems with sober living homes caused by current federal law preventing appropriate local oversight. For the benefit of my colleagues and the American people, I include in the RECORD the second group of these constituent letters:

In mid-February the home next door was sold to a LLC. The home was converted to a sober living home. I do not know how many men live at the facility but notice that new men are coming and going all day. There are different cars parked weekly. I hope none of these men have criminal backgrounds. Have cut down going outside the home. Stopped the evening walk. Have an ADT security system and installed motion lights all around the home.

Initially they smoked cigarettes in the backyard and we lost all use of our backyard. On constant complaining to [REDACTED] they moved the smoking to the other side of the home. It did not help much as now they had begun to smoke e-cigarettes and vaping also. The smell in our home is terrible. We use Hepa filter air purifiers in the home. Keep half the home windows closed. Our home has become more of a prison. My husband and I have chronic multiple health issues. The smoke and e cigarette pollutants cause me to have a constant cough, irritated nose, burning eyes and sometimes headaches. I wear a N99 pollution mask all day in the home. I daily leave the home for a few hours to take the mask off. I also try to spend a night or two outside the home. When the symptoms get further aggravated I get checked by my Physician. I last visited him on August 31, 2018. It affects me more than my husband.

These homes are built for single family use and not for group smoking and vaping. Our family room and sober living home family room is 10 feet apart. My husband and I are covered under the ADA, we are covered but not the facility and medical personnel we use. The addict should be covered under the ADA but why are the owners and medical personnel covered also.

A few years back every residential neighborhood in Huntington Beach had a park and school. Today every residential neighborhood has a few sober living home/detox facilities. Schools are closing, and many parks are unsafe for children.

JOTI GHUMAN,

Huntington Beach, California.

Since having a sober living home open nearly behind my home, the quality of life in

this neighborhood has deteriorated greatly. What has been a quiet neighborhood where people feel safe to live their lives, raise their children, and go about their daily lives in a secure environment has changed. Now I need to be certain every night that every door and window in my home is locked and secure. We had an incident in which drug users from the sober living home ran from the police through not only my but several neighbor's yards, with police searching through those yards at 2 am, with the suspects attempting to enter at least one home in the attempt to evade police. Many neighbors speak of seeing people committing suspicious activities in on the grounds of the local school, which is approximately three homes away from the sober living home. Many neighbors are so anxious about the deterioration of the neighborhood that they are selling their homes, with many others discussing doing so as well. We need more oversight as to who manages these homes, as I understand, the one in my neighborhood is managed by an individual with multiple felonies. This is insane, and regulations need to be implemented. Thank you for reading my issues.

EDWARD SKELTON,

Huntington Beach, California.

I live a few houses away from a sober living home where drug use has gone on there. Even worse someone from there entered another person's home on our block in the middle of the night. It saddens me that there is not much regulation regarding these homes and they can just open anywhere. We have families with little kids in the area and a school down the street from us. These homes need to be regulated and their clients properly cared for. There should be proof that patients are benefiting from these homes before we spend all this money to make owners of them rich, while everyone suffers including the community.

GINA MACDONALD,

Huntington Beach, California.

We live in a town house in Aliso Viejo, California. Our walls are connected to other homes on both sides. In 2015/2016 one of our neighbors moved out and turned her home into a sober living home. For almost 2 years we lived in constant fear of the revolving door of people going in and out of that house.

During that time, we (and our neighbors) had to call the Orange County Sheriff's Department because of numerous violent fights, at all hours of the night. My girlfriend witnessed an individual who seemed to have overdosed in front of our garage. There were numerous fights, strange chemical smells coming out of the house, sheriffs and other emergency vehicles constantly next door. Residents would wander the neighborhood and at hours of the day and just stand outside our home, looking right into our windows. We had to lock our doors, close the blinds and request that they smoke down the street. We are still worried that methamphetamine was possibly being cooked and was the source of the chemical smells coming from inside the home. Again, we share a wall and we worry about possible long-term risks of exposure.

At one time, the boyfriend of one of the residents was wanted by the United States Marine Corps. The home owner stopped by our home and provided me the investigators

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